



# GROUNDCOVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

SEPTEMBER 2014 VOLUME 5 ISSUE 9

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## Who deserves to relax?



by Susan Beckett  
Publisher

Groundcover News salespeople did a remarkable job of selling this spring, exceeding our collective sales goal of 10,000 in May and earning a trip to a baseball game as a reward. The Detroit Tigers generously donated tickets to a Tuesday night game. The eight vendors who went enjoyed the experience, from seeing the giant tire on I-94 to our simple hot dog tailgate and the festive atmosphere at the stadium. One vendor brought her pre-teen daughter who had never been to Detroit, and for many it was their first time at a major league sports event.

A customer who saw our Facebook post

about the game expressed disapproval to one of our vendors who had opted out of attending. The customer's opinion was that we shouldn't be spending money on things like that. While I endorse frugality as a general rule, there is an assumption behind the disapproval that bears examination.

The assumption is that Groundcover News vendors are people living on the brink and asking for charity to survive, and until they are able to support themselves in another way, they have no business spending money on entertainment. There are two points on which to take issue with that assumption.

The first is assuming that either the vendors or the organization was squandering money. The vendors did not have to put any of their money into attending the game. The tickets were donated and the organization covered the cost of transportation and the hot dog tailgate from a donation that was designated for discretionary spending. One vendor who did not even attend the game donated a case of water so everyone could bring a drink into the stadium, and another brought a bag of chips to share. Cookies and brownies were donated by volunteers. And though we were delighted that everyone

involved enjoyed the experience, the trip was the result of a deliberate and successful strategy to increase mutual support and overall sales.

The more serious issue is equating Groundcover News with asking for charity. It is a fine line we walk at Groundcover. A quarter of the cost of an issue of Groundcover goes toward covering publication costs, and our publication does educate the community about homelessness and poverty with the goal of increasing the availability of effective solutions – and that is a charitable cause. However, the people who sell Groundcover are working – that is their job – and they are selling a publication that they think is worth at least one dollar. They work hard, and one benefit of working is that you have money to spend as you see fit. Many people cannot afford housing in Ann Arbor, even if they save every dime they make. Does that mean they should never spend their money on something they enjoy?

Some vendors chose not to go to the game so they could get in another four or five hours of work, as they were focused on making enough for a down payment on a place to stay. Others chose not to go so they would

be able to get to sleep early enough to be fresh and ready for the early morning Farmers Market crowd. At least one stayed behind to work another evening part-time job. As self-employed entrepreneurs, each vendor made his or her own business decision.

One who did go was Shawn, our top salesperson for the last couple of months. You can see him at the Farmer's Market in the morning, around the downtown post office in the afternoon, and at St. Mary's Student Parish from early morning through early afternoon every Sunday. He works at least five hours a day, seven days a week – weather permitting – and made sure his finances were well taken care of in advance so that he could attend the game. Does he not deserve a chance to relax and socialize? And when local children stopped by our tailgate to sell very expensive candy, Shawn graciously bought from them and encouraged their efforts. He did so without judgment and with no strings attached. Thanks to some of you who have been paying forward the blessings bestowed on you, Shawn was able to pay forward his, and hopefully those kids will someday do the same.

### GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

*Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.*

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## Letter of thanks

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the letter to a heroin user published in your July issue, written by Kelsey Horne. It is both beautifully written and heartfelt.

Your publication frequently offers a distinct viewpoint on life and I appreciate it and make an effort to buy a copy whenever I can. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,  
Robin Agnew

734-707-9210

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## When is Wednesday?



by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell  
Groundcover Contributor

I know a young woman who will be 27 in a few weeks. She is a brilliant jazz pianist. Her first CD, produced by one of her brothers when she was a teenager, featured songs she composed at 14 and 15. Years before, my family and I had moved just around the corner from where she lived with her mom, dad and two elder brothers. At the time, she was four. My daughters Molly and Amanda were five and eight, and her two older brothers were six and ten. They were a well-established family in the neighborhood when we moved there in May 1992. Within a very few days, the five kids were inseparable. They grew up like cousins, even when we moved across town four years later.

The five of them played in a world of their own scenes and scripts. Somewhere they found a rickety, castoff bookcase. They dragged it under a pine tree, back behind the garage at the far edge of our yard. There they stored their potions – various bottles contained water dyed with berries and I imagine quite a bit of food coloring. They had a favorite zone they returned to often. It was called snow goons and fairies. They staged elaborate circuses that included family pets. On one cold winter evening, when we were all together for dinner, they asked to eat their supper on a table cloth spread out on the kitchen floor. At that moment they were Swedish immigrants at the World's Fair. There was no end to the scenarios they were interested in recreating or the costuming they wore.

A few months after our move to the neighborhood, my husband and I separated. Now my daughters spent every other weekend and every Monday and Tuesday at his house. Most

Saturday mornings or Sunday afternoons not long after Amanda and Molly left for their dad's, I heard a knock at my front door. There stood the jazz-pianist-to-be in her pink leotard and purple net tutu. Her outfit also included cowgirl boots, a vest, a hat, and some sort of rope around her waist. There was a regular ritual that took place when I opened the door. I would say, "Hello." She would respond, "Martha, when is Wednesday?" It was often a challenge at 9:30 am on Saturday or 3:00 pm on Sunday to adequately explain the flow of time until Wednesday.

Wednesday after school was when all five of them would be together again. Wednesday was their weekly family reunion. Walking home from school, they came noisily up the street shouting ideas back and forth or singing at the top of their lungs. One day they burst into my living room hiding behind branches with other leaves sticking out of their backpacks. If they had been a

little older, I would have sworn they were acting out a scene from Shakespeare's Macbeth.

The weekly "When is Wednesday?" question still reminds me of the best of what it means to be at home. Home is where you find your people, your tribe. At home there is safety and invitation to play with abandon. It can be a space where you adjust to difficult realities, like the absence of dear friends for a few days each week. We learn to say good-bye and hello at home. Home shifts and changes as we grow and mature.

The jazz pianist, her two brothers and my two daughters are scattered across the country now. They range in age from 26-33. Only on rare occasions are they all together. But long ago and far away on many a Wednesday, they and I learned over and over what it is that we treasure on the subject of home.

## How do you practice Holistic Criminal Law?



Angie Martell  
Groundcover Contributor

Many people believe that it is oxymoron to use the words "holistic" and "criminal law" in the same sentence, since criminal law, like many other facets of the law, operates within a draconian and hierarchical system.

Ironically, everyone in the American system of justice is presumed innocent until proven guilty – but in practice, it often seems like the opposite. I had a client who was charged with driving under the influence and causing serious bodily injury. The incident allegedly occurred one night at 2 a.m., and the only eyewitness – who was yards away – said she saw him get out of the driver's side of the vehicle. My client denied he was the driver. He had just arrived in Michigan barely five days earlier and never drove in his life. He gave the name of the individual who was the driver but no one believed him because of this eyewitness. A year-and-a-half later, the case against him was dismissed.

Most people don't have the tenacity of this person. Fighting his case, he lost his job, his family relations were strained, and he was threatened that if he didn't accept the prosecutor's offer, the State would pursue state prison time. Most people under those circum-

stances would have taken the probation he was offered, but he refused because he was innocent.

### Plea bargaining

I would like to say that this case is an anomaly, but unfortunately, it isn't. Ninety to 95 percent of cases across the country are resolved through plea bargains. Many have called the plea bargaining system a broken system that uses intimidation, causing many innocent people to plead guilty rather than face the possibility of prison or longer sentences.

So why do people plead guilty? Fear is often behind the motivation to accept a plea. Fear that their past will be brought up. Fear that if they lose at trial, the prosecutor's threats of additional time could become a reality. Fear that no one would believe them. The lack of money and time, and the fact that many public defender offices are at maximum capacity, are also substantial factors.

According to statistics from the University of Michigan Law School, wrongful convictions happen fairly regularly, and what is more shocking is how many people actually plead guilty to crimes they didn't commit. Often, contributing factors are missing information, witness mistakes and lies, ineffective assistance of counsel, false confessions, bad or lack of forensic evidence, and official misconduct.

### The holistic approach

Approaching a criminal case holistically means looking at trying to achieve better outcomes for clients, their

families, and their communities. It means working compassionately with clients – especially indigent clients – and being aware that the problems and challenges they face stretch further than the confines of the case before them. It can mean providing them with assistance. Or, in a restorative justice (peace-making) approach, it could be a process that supports the community healing from the crime – rather than punishment, seeking not only the healing of the victims but also that of the offender. It's about talking and asking how to repair the harm. In the peace-keeping courts, it is about exploring with the person accused about the root of his or her behavior, how it affected others, the harm it caused, accountability strategies, and how to make better choices in the future.

Another area holistic practitioners look at is the collateral consequences of accepting a plea. For individuals who are not U.S. citizens, they can be deported for certain crimes. It can be a child who arrived here at the age of two and has never been to their country of birth, or it could be a grandmother or grandfather whose entire family has been residing here for 30 years. For others, they may not be able to get a license or job, or attend a university. As lawyers, we need to inform clients of the collateral consequences of their plea so that they can make better and more informed decisions.

For the holistic practitioner, it is also about educating the court and the prosecution, and challenging adversarial structures that aren't working. Holistic lawyers humanize the cases

before the court. We call for compassion. Ours cannot be a caste system or an assembly line straight to prison. The draconian nature of our laws must end.

What we lack in the criminal justice system is heart – the power to forgive and the ability to ask the why. Why is this happening to this person? Why did they do what they did? Why do we punish people for pan handling when they can't secure a job? Why do we punish incarceration addicts or the mentally ill when they steal shampoo from CVS, when they really need a program or help? Why do we punish children for making mistakes? Why are we disproportionately punishing people based on race and national origin?

We need to speak these truths. Let us acknowledge that we punish and we judge, and let us find solutions for change. Not everyone is guilty solely because they are accused, and for those that are, let us talk about accountability, forgiveness with a gentle heart, and providing resources so that they can make better decisions. Fairness is when we are all treated equally and when you walk into the shoes of the other and understand their plight.

Let the words that are etched on the building that houses the Supreme Court of Michigan – *Truth, Justice, Equality and Freedom* – not be solely an aspiration. Rather, let those words permeate and embody how we act and treat one another, and how the law treats us – regardless of race, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, age, or disability.



## Crisis Residential Services helps in times of psychological crisis and need

Kaitlin Schuler

Groundcover Contributor  
and Robert Salo, Vendor #17

Every person has been through a time of need and crisis in their lives, but some suffer from psychological crises so severe that larger steps are needed before a person can return to their normal routine. Acute Services House/ Crisis Residential Services (ASH/CRS) serves those in need of immediate and effective treatment of mental illness. It is a community-based program that provides aid to those who require 24-hour support to resolve a psychological crisis before they are ready to return home.

Synod Residential Services and Community Support and Treatment Service (CSTS) work cooperatively to run ASH/CRS and to provide the most help and best care for those in their facility. The Washtenaw County facility was founded in 1987 but moved to its newest location in 2003. One male and one female staff member are on duty around the clock, along with nurses provided by CSTS.

Dana Leahy is the Program Supervisor for ASH/CRS. She elaborated on the services provided by ASH/CRS, saying, "We offer anywhere from overnight to a two-week stay. They (the participant) might need a medication change. They might need to see a physical doctor, they might need to see a therapist – it's whatever it takes to get them back to baseline."

Leahy also explained that ASH/CRS is a place only for those who are facing a crisis with their mental illness. Their facility is not a replacement for permanent housing. The building contains six beds and provides care for male and female participants, but the maximum stay, as Leahy reiterated, is two weeks.

If the person in their care has a doctor already, ASH/CRS staff help direct him or her to the doctor and work with the doctor to figure out a new treatment plan. If a person in their care does not have a personal doctor, ASH/CRS refers him to Packard Clinic, Leahy said.

ASH/CRS provides an alternative to hospitalization, and the staff encourages family and other supporters to be



Helped through his crisis, Robert is now settled back in the community.

a part of their loved ones' crisis resolution. In the safe environment, a person can work back to stability and resolve the crisis that has struck them. This alternative allows calmness and focus on returning to baseline, rather than the participant being admitted to a typically stressful hospital situation.

Some of the services provided within ASH/CRS include psychiatric assessments, daily nursing care, therapy groups and case management.

A Groundcover vendor, Robert Salo, can speak personally to the help that ASH/CRS services provide. Following is Salo's experience with the Washtenaw facility:

*At my recent stay at CRS, the nursing student from Washtenaw Community College led an art group. We used watercolors at first. I was so energetic. I was working with a group and I was thinking how could I incorporate watercolor with my art. At that point it all came together. I felt a calm come over me and I used a breathing technique I learned in CRS to remove stress. Then I felt so relaxed and everything flowed into the work.*

*when she used to work with the Lusk JPORT team in the CSTS annex building. Now she is the main nurse at the CRS, where she helps Washtenaw County residents suffering from mental health crisis situations. God bless her and all.*

Salo made use of the resources provided by ASH/CRS – in this case, watercolors and breathing techniques – to bring himself back to his baseline mental health and out of crisis. He mentioned learning that meditation is beneficial, and that anything a person enjoys can benefit peace of mind. Leahy also mentioned some services that CSTS provides in this facility, including "painting, music and movement, stress management, medication education and dual diagnosis issues."

*Everyone did a good job and it all connected at the end like a fine-toothed comb.*

*What I gathered from stress management to calm myself is to take a deep breath through the nose and breathe out the mouth. To relieve stress, relax in a quiet spot and think of a place you love to be, get in a comfortable position, close your eyes and just relax yourself. We can go for a walk, read a book, watch TV or work on art, to take ourselves from the stress. Meditation is always good, too, as is just doing something you enjoy.*

*I couldn't have done it without the CRS nurse. I first met Nurse Jessica*

ASH/CRS takes referrals from Psychiatric Emergency Service, inpatient liaisons and caseworkers, but they also take walk-in participants who feel the need to admit themselves. As Leahy explained when asked about the usual participants in ASH/CRS, "There was a time where most of the people we saw were bipolar, schizophrenic, schizo-affective – along those lines. Many are dually diagnosed, and often have substance abuse. That's what we see more often than not these days. We see, and we help, whoever walks in the door."

For more information about ASH/CRS, please visit [www.synres.org](http://www.synres.org), email [info@synodhelps.org](mailto:info@synodhelps.org), or call 734-483-9363.

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## Knowing Is Half the Battle

by Shawn Story

### Groundcover Vendor #42

Having a go-get-it attitude will always get you what you need.

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Engage in what is important to you and what is right for you.

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Knowing is half the battle.

Stay alert, smart and observant of your surroundings.

Be about it, don't talk about it.

The secret is to ask Him, believe in Him and receive Him.

Knowing is half the battle.

*Even a child knows by his doing, whether his word be pure and whether it be right.*

Proverbs 20:11

## Washtenaw County Senior Nutrition Program

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## What does *I'm good* mean, anyway?

by Elizabeth S. Kurtz, aka "Lit"  
Groundcover Vendor #159

I stood in front of my spot at the Y for over an hour one Saturday morning and did not receive one dollar. One person after the next offered a polite "no, thank you" or what I have become to believe is the most selfish phrase one can utter, "I'm good."

There is something unsettling when a person posits, *I'm good* when another human being's life has depleted her or him of even the most basic of human rights. After all, some of the worst human rights atrocities in the world are committed daily under the guise of homelessness. Despite our casual friendly demeanors, some vendors may have on any given day been deprived of food, clothing, shelter or all three. The phrase *I'm good* (however it crept into the language) is laden with the self-centeredness that seems to have become common in a society of haves and have-nots.

Most generous interpretation: it means "no, thanks" or "I'm fine, I don't need it."

This paper, after all, is designed to assist those who are in need. It is more than just a collection of articles. The articles connect those outside of our subculture to our lives, while it provides us with enough to get through the days and nights with less challenge. Implicit in our sale is the idea that something has happened to cause us to experience economic hardship and that the collective dollars of the stronger community are a way of telling us that we are not forgotten. It is a way of recognizing that even in America, destitution can abide amongst affluence, and that while one person is enjoying the best of life, another's best effort may not even ensure a decent meal.

I am disappointed that more people don't get that as they go about their daily lives. I marvel daily at the lack of social consciousness and apathy displayed by even some of the best minds. The amount of social ignorance is at times appalling, yet revealing as to what stagnates the problems surrounding poverty and homelessness.

On the other side, a customer recently told me that she will cross the street to purchase a paper. She, too, seemed baffled by the number of people who avert their eyes and ignore vendors. Clearly the shortage is not in dollars, but in a lack of understanding among many about their need to give back. In a time

when the global economy has experienced some of the worst turbulence in history, the self-centered sentiment *I'm good* is only a transitory one. I am convinced that homelessness can happen to anyone, and the revealing phrase makes me feel pity for anyone who thinks their life is that secure.

Like so many from middle-class backgrounds, I heard the warnings of being "only one paycheck away," but in all sincerity I felt it would never happen to me. However, since becoming homeless I have had an opportunity to measure what really constitutes a good life and few of them have to do with anything other than what the richness of friendship, spiritual awareness, and inner peace can provide. In that respect, I too can say, *I'm good*.

Despite this, I have the right – as do all individuals whose circumstances have deprived them of even the most fundamental elements of life – to have access to affordable housing, health care, and meaningful work.

In that respect, I know that not one individual can truly say *I'm good* until everyone is.



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## Learning and living without electronics

by Ian Mark  
U-M Student Contributor

Any college student can tell you that the daily grind can get tiresome. Long lectures, furious note-taking and cram studying are the norm. However, the New England Literature Program (NELP) at the University of Michigan (U-M) offers a program that boldly challenges this.

So what exactly is NELP? It's a U-M academic program, but students from any school are welcome to apply. It takes place during the spring half-term. For six-and-a-half weeks, 40 students and 13 instructors go to live at a camp on Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire. Students read New England authors, write, participate in classes, hike, canoe, camp, climb mountains, and are even given the opportunity to teach classes themselves. There are also some unusual lifestyle restrictions for students: alcohol, drugs, phones and devices with screens are all strictly prohibited. As for communicating with those outside of NELP, students are limited to snail mail, either using worn typewriters or writing by hand.

NELP offers a truly alternative style of education. Classes aren't larger than 10 or 11 students, and there are never lectures. Classes are generally a discussion of a text, but often stretch to include creative writing, sketching representations of characters in a novel, or other unorthodox classroom activities. Of course, there's also the fact that you're never in an actual classroom, and most classes are outdoors. Beyond that, instructors and students are almost on equal footing. Students are encouraged to reach their own conclusions about a text instead of being instructed on how to view it.

Additionally, the range of classes covers a large variety of subjects. While it is a literature program, electives are taught on anything remotely related to the

program goals. This could include classes on interpretative dance, slacklining (balancing on a rope), body language, or examining the remnants of slavery in New England. A big part of the NELP approach is extending learning beyond the academic realm. Students are pushed to try new things, engage in self-exploration, reflect, and challenge the world around them.

It's all driven by writing, specifically in students' journals. These are required for every class and activity, meaning they are always on-hand. This is where students blend academic, creative and personal writing. Experimentation is strongly encouraged. Never written poetry before? Give it a shot. Not much of an artist? Try sketching a picture of your cabin.

I was fortunate enough to be a part of the 2014 NELP class. As a disclaimer, I have to say that my experiences are unique to me. Every student takes away something different. My story is by no means the standard for the program.

It was an experience unlike any other in my life. I read Dickinson poems in the middle of the night – in a graveyard – by flashlight. I discovered how enjoyable writing poetry is, even when it's just about a bug smashed in your cabin. I climbed Mount Washington, the tallest mountain in New England, even though I was pretty certain it would kill me. With some fellow students, I found myself lost several miles from camp, but resolved to get ice cream on the way back.

One of the most memorable outdoor experiences I've ever had was during week four of the program, on a canoe trip in Maine. We paddled into a lake around 10 p.m. before stopping to read a short passage of *Walden*. After that, our instructor turned us loose to paddle further out and do as we pleased. Setting our paddles inside the canoe, we

took some time to drink in the evening, gazing at the impressive view and savoring the silence. Countless stars dotted the night sky above us, bordered only by a nearby mountain and 360 degrees of tree line. The water was unbelievably smooth: we could see the reflection of a number of stars on the inky surface. A light fog hung off the water, and loons called to one another frequently from the far end of the lake. It was beautifully serene, and while appreciating the view, it was an extraordinary moment for reflection.

I found classes were more engaging (and educational) than traditional classes. I was sitting by Lake Winnepesaukee, on a dock, discussing the poetry of Wallace Stevens and marveling at how I was getting credit for it. The program does a fine job of blending a lot of different types of educational experiences. You may sit down for a class on a novel after learning how to deal with the mental strain of a long day's hike, or learning how to cook a meal for more than 50 people.

I don't imagine I will ever get the chance to live the NELP lifestyle again. That's the last time I'll get to live for six-and-a-half weeks without seeing a phone or a laptop. What a tremendous opportunity, to be able to focus almost entirely on learning, reading and writing.

It was an incredible time for reflecting

on the self and life – I found that I felt entirely removed from my life in Ann Arbor, and it gave me a wonderful space to reflect on that. Add the fact that you're required to journal extensively every day, and it's no wonder that I learned a lot about myself. I became painfully aware of some flaws, like a tendency to be a poor listener. On the other hand, I gained a greater understanding of what matters most to me – trying to help others (still trying to figure out how to do this) and writing (still figuring this one out, as well).

For me, that was really the greatest takeaway from the program. I came to NELP with an interest in writing. I had dabbled in short stories and creative non-fiction (personal essays, for example) every now and then. After six-and-a-half weeks of rigorous writing, the activity felt no less than essential in my life. This was a big change; I delved deeper into something that gives my life meaning, and provides an enormous sense of satisfaction.

I would highly recommend NELP to college students with any interest in reading, writing or the outdoors. A few things to remember: it's not just for English majors, and students from all schools are welcome. Don't let my experiences speak for the program. Experience it for yourself, and see what it stirs up in you. You may be amazed at what you can learn outside of a classroom.



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Helen Keller

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## A slippery slope – sending troops to Iraq

by Martin Stolzenberg  
Groundcover Contributor

Whether or not to send troops to Iraq is a big conundrum for President Obama. If we don't give the Iraqi government some help, chances are the whole country is likely to wind up in the hands of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) insurgents. Besides being hostile to the United States, they have shown themselves to be a brutal, barbaric bunch favoring Sharia law. Beheadings, amputations and women being forced to wearing burka are all part of their modus operandi. Their very name tells what their ambitions are.

President Obama has pledged to help the Iraqi government a little bit, with up to 400 specialists now being shipped there, with a cap on that number. But, how do we know it won't escalate into many more, even hundreds of thousands of troops required, a kind of "déjà vu Vietnam"? We think this won't happen because the President has given his word that it will not happen.

Checked your calendar lately? There will be a new President in office start-



ing in 2017. The "new guy or girl on the block" will have no such constraints, campaign promises notwithstanding. The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCOS) might be screaming, "The whole Middle East will be lost to us soon if we don't stop this spread of terrorism. We will be in danger of only God knows what."

The military complex and their K Street lobbyists are always ready for another war; it's good for business. Of course, the hawks in Congress will favor it. The pressure on the new President will be fierce.

Who will be against it?

The polls show the American people are overwhelmingly against the escalation – as of June 15, 2014, 74 percent oppose, according to *Americans United for Change*. *The New York Times* can be expected to write editorials condemning the buildup, and some "dovish" Congressmen will shout into the wind on this one. There will be carping about supporting the incompetent and corrupt government of Nouri al-Malaki, the Prime Minister of Iraq.

see SLIPPERY SLOPE, page 11

EVERYONE

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## Sudoku ★★★★★ 4puz.com

6	3	9			2			
	7	1	9					
			8					1
		8	7	5				3
	4	5				8	9	
3				8	4	1		
2					1			
				7	3	1		
			3			6	4	5

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

## Cryptoquote

WTF WJNF WG  
MFQKR JU DTFC  
OGV BGC'W TKEF  
WJNF XGM JW.  
– UOBCFO L. TKMMJU

Hint: f = 7

## Groundcover Vendor Code

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

**All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:**

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1, or the face value of the paper. I agree not to ask for more than a dollar or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell

to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

**If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to:**  
**contact@groundcovernews.com**  
**734-707-9210**

### ACROSS

- Bones
- Well known award
- Hebrew man's name
- Bridge contract
- Unbroken
- Grammy winner Schiffrin
- Olympics venue
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Thin Air*
- Corpulent
- Discern
- Shortly
- Invite
- Singer Arnold
- Tweak
- 1980s movie or TV series
- Venerable
- Diving bird
- Particle
- Recess
- Ruminant
- Tolerate
- Orderly
- Vex
- If not
- Container
- Always
- Matures
- Two dimensional
- Black
- \_\_\_\_\_ glance
- Wander
- Support
- Archipelago
- Actor Pettyfer
- Legendary creature
- City in Indiana or Illinois
- Before
- Assistant
- Pitch
- \_\_\_\_\_ rock, city in Washington
- File

### DOWN

- Location of King Harald's palace
- Foundation type
- Beverage
- He played Mingo
- Barn \_\_\_\_\_
- Leg part
- Famous name in fashion

### Deep water

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67					68				69					
70					71						72			
73					74						75			

- Came to rest
- Liquidate
- Ancient literature
- Frank Sinatra or George Clooney role
- Musical range
- Solar zenith
- Pod occupants
- Impale
- Cub Scout group
- Vegetation
- Lorna \_\_\_\_\_
- Author of *Diary of a Mad Diva*
- "Do \_\_\_\_\_ others..."
- \_\_\_\_\_ gold
- Biblical prophet
- High altitude city
- Discourage
- Orange, for one

- South American Indian
- Retained
- Shaggy beast
- Plaster ingredient
- Hideaway
- Center
- Extreme point of an orbit
- Spellbound
- \_\_\_\_\_ graph, imitation oil painting
- Clinton's Attorney General
- Quaker \_\_\_\_\_
- It takes two to do this
- Princess of Alderaan
- Consequences
- Discrete part of a process
- Tarzan portrayer

Puzzle by Jeff Richmond



### Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

(between William and Packard)

(734) 665-6149

Bethlehem Church is the home of the Groundcover office.

#### Sundays:

8:30 am and 10:00 am - Worship Services

Fellowship Hour follows each service

#### Upcoming Community Events

(Bethlehem-ucc.org for more details)

- Sunday, Sept. 7** Gail Jennings & Andrew Jennings, 3pm concert  
Organ & Harpsichord
- Sunday, Sept. 14** Homemade German Soft Pretzel Sale (after service)
- Sunday, Sept. 14** Flu Vaccine Clinic, 7:45-11:30am
- Friday, Sept. 26** Homemade German Soft Pretzel Sale, 12-2pm
- Sunday, Oct. 5** Blessing of the Pets (in Fifth Avenue yard)

[www.bethlehem-ucc.org](http://www.bethlehem-ucc.org)  
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[www.pinterest.com/bethlehemucca2](https://www.pinterest.com/bethlehemucca2)  
[www.youtube.com/user/BethlehemChurchA2](https://www.youtube.com/user/BethlehemChurchA2)



## Who are you and why do you draw? An interview with Genevieve Shapiro

by Susan Beckett

SB: You have been sending in comic strips to Groundcover from overseas. Where are you, and what drew you there?

GS: Hahaha..... "Drew me there" – good one! I'm in Uruguay. Yes, *that* Uruguay, home of the bity football-player, Suarez. His habit of biting opponents may be the one thing that really helps outsiders tell Uruguay apart from Paraguay. I work for the State Department in the Foreign Service, so someone in Washington, D.C. decided to send me here.

SB: Are you allowed to reveal your full name?

GS: Yes, and a bonus for those who can pronounce it – Genevieve Shapiro, aka "G" (for those who are in a hurry).

SB: Can you tell us more about your job?

GS: Yup. I'm an office manager, and my current boss is Ambassador Julissa Reynoso. This job used to be called Foreign Service Secretary, but these days we're called OMS – Office Management Specialists. Before this, I served a tour in Lima, Peru, and my next tour could be anywhere in the world – it's still up in the air. I got into this at the suggestion of my mom who is an alum of the Foreign Service – she recently retired from being a Regional English Language Officer, and told me that the job I already had – I was an office manager in Boston – could be combined with seeing the world. What a hoot! I applied and got in, and here I am, doing the same work from one year to the next, but the view outside my window keeps changing. What's not to like?

SB: How did you learn about Groundcover News?

GS: So I was on home leave, see, and came to see my mom. I chose the nicest time of year to visit Ann Arbor – February. We had lunch at this Indian restaurant near Nickel's Arcade (we really miss Indian food way down here in the Antipodes!), and we came out afterwards through the State Street exit and there was this guy selling a newspaper I'd never heard of (it's been a few years since I lived in Ann Arbor). He had the annual special, which looked thick and juicy (I'm always a sucker for puzzles and of course for cartoons) and he was really charming, too – despite working outdoors in the snow and sleet. So I ponied up 10 bucks and enjoyed that newspaper all the way back to South America (A2 - Florida - Brazil - Uruguay). By the time I got home, I decided it was a cool paper, and I wanted to be a part of it, if possible. Remote-control cartooning is my specialty, and I was very happy when you agreed to run some of my work. Go Groundcover – making the world a better place, page by page.

SB: What is the origin of the Greendog Café comic strip?

GS: When I lived in Boston, I was very frustrated with the life of a long-distance commuter, and it came out in my daily cartoon strip "City." (Pain inspires humor – it's the bestest). But I recognized that "City" would have a limited appeal, and I decided to do a little experiment. It seemed like the most famous cartoon strips usually featured a cat, a dog, or both. And violence. Could that be all that's needed? I drew a new cartoon strip and named it Greendog Café because I believe in the Green Movement, and I'm a vegetarian, and because I adore coffee and coffee shops. I drew about 20 strips. At the time, I was working under a challenge to draw a cartoon a day, partly in order to improve my drawing skills, and also in order to learn about blogging and twitter and how to make my own

website. Those early GDC strips are hair-raisingly ugly. But I actually got some positive responses from my more charitable readers and friends. I redesigned the characters to be a bit more friendly-looking, and got a much better response, so I've continued drawing them when I can. Every once in a while I have to remind myself to inject a little violence. It's not easy, because I'm not a violent person, but I just think back to Looney Toons and the Grimm tales to get into the spirit.

SB: How did you get started in cartooning?

GS: Thank you Mom and Quakers! My mom sent me to a Quaker music camp (Friends Music Institute in Ohio), where I drew a cartoon strip about a dog named Gus for the camp newsletter. Oh, and I also learned to play some music. But no theory. I got a B- in music theory. Or maybe I should say a B-flat. Anyway, Gus is probably the antecedent of Señor Banana, the caffeine-mad Chihuahua in Greendog Café. Gus just sat around under the kitchen table mostly getting in the way of people's feet. In addition to the cartoon strips, I've done lots of cartoon illustrations – for clients and for my own amusement. I can't stop drawing. Last week, the *Saratoga Wire* began running a collaborative project I did with ZBS.org called *Saratoga Noir*. It's set in Saratoga Springs, and is a detective story about a cult that ransoms kitty-cats of the wealthy. You can listen to the radio play (great music and sound effects!), or read the comic strip, or do both. The 20-episode series will run through August. Look out *Prince Valiant*!

I love comic books and graphic novels like *Tintin*, *Asterix*, and freaky ones like *Bone* and *Monsieur Henri*. Intelligent and thoughtful comic books are a great learning tool, but they're also a great way to enjoy life! Sometimes I'm

bummed out because, in the States, it seems like the vast majority of comics are wildly sexist and violent, and without much humor. Either as result or cause, receptivity to comics there is much narrower than in most of the rest of the world, where cartooning is a powerful political and social tool – and a lot of fun to read. Paul Theroux wrote, "I find it discouraging to see a pretty woman reading a comic book."

Well, he can stuff it; he's undervaluing women AND comic books. Instead of griping, though (OK, in addition to griping), I self-published my first full-length graphic novel (*Silver*) a few weeks ago – I just set out to write the kind of comic book I'd love to read. I hope other people enjoy reading it, too.

SB: Do your cartoons ever help or hurt your State Department career?

GS: Therapy. They keep me sane. Into every job a little stress must fall, and there's nothing better for de-stressing after a week at the embassy than a weekend doodling and listening to books on tape. So I credit my cartoons with the fact that I've survived 12 years of office management! The trick is not to obviously draw cartoons about real people you work with. (Like, say, drawing a cartoon about a colleague named Tammy and naming the cartoon "Tammy." Um... Which I did. But hey – I got her permission!) Also, for the last two years my cartoons have been running in the *Foreign Service Journal* – I do a series of cartoons based on embassy life and living overseas. It's been a great way to connect with my many colleagues around the world. And I can make really specialized jokes about things that only they would understand – like our habit of descending every three years on Costco and buying \$2000 worth of supplies like cushy toilet paper, flats of peanut-butter, and Gillette triple-blade refills.





## DAPCO brings its aid to Washtenaw County nonprofits

**Kaitlin Schuler,**  
**Groundcover Contributor and**  
**DAPCO interns Damon Drew,**  
**Kamaria Gardner, and Tyrone**  
**Steward**

Groundcover News thrives on volunteer service in their office. Whether the volunteers help out at the Art Fair or spend a few hours in the office answering the phone and selling papers to vendors, anything they do helps Groundcover further its mission.

Right now, some of Groundcover's volunteers come from the Destiny and Purpose Community Outreach (DAPCO) program, located in Ypsilanti. According to their website, the mission of DAPCO is to "strengthen family" and "equip men, women and youth who are at risk of becoming non-achievers with the skills and resources to become productive citizens with new hope." DAPCO gives opportunities to these participants in a variety of ways, so they can see there are many paths to take in life that lead to success. DAPCO emphasizes living meaningful lives and strengthening ethical values.

DAPCO began in 1997 with the purpose of supporting women entrepreneurs, but widened its focus in 1999 as a community development organization for all genders. The overarching program is made up of many programs, including entrepreneur coaching for women, workplace development and job placement for young adults, marriage and relationship enhancement

classes, and a role-model mentoring program, just to name a few.

Groundcover currently hosts three DAPCO interns who participate in the role-model mentoring program called Youth on a Positive Note. Damon Drew, a University of Toledo graduate with a degree in psychology, leads his two mentees. Drew explained the program and his role with Youth on a Positive Note and DAPCO, saying, "As the Peer Group Leader, my role is to act as a supervisor and mentor for our two participants. I've found that I perform best in my role when I put my mentees in a position to challenge themselves and step out of their comfort zones."

The mentees, high school students Tyrone Steward and Kamaria Gardner, have the opportunity to both work their first job and gather an array of experience with multiple organizations in Washtenaw County. One of these is Groundcover. Drew continued, "The benefit of this program is two-fold: it provides invaluable work experience for young people, and it offers assistance for non-profit organizations that can always use the help."

Both Steward and Gardner wanted to share a bit of their personal experience with DAPCO and Groundcover this summer. Gardner is a freshman at Belleville High School and has seven siblings. She loves to write, and she has even started to write a few stories. About her experience at Groundcover,

Gardner said, "I have learned that Groundcover helps the lower class by selling them newspapers for a quarter, which they can sell on the street for a dollar. Sometimes the same vendors who sell the newspapers write the stories in Groundcover. This gives the lower class an outlet in which they can voice their stories. When I leave this newspaper, I hope to have developed some business skills. I could really use business skills in the future, as I want to become a registered nurse, a pediatrician or a medical assistant."

Steward is a junior at Lincoln High School who enjoys playing basketball and is the youngest of five siblings. He spoke more about his experience with DAPCO, explaining, "DAPCO provides a good learning environment for young teens and young adults. They've taught me some life and education skills. I've learned how to set up a bank account by a representative from TCF bank. I have also been taught some business tips and tricks."

"DAPCO has changed the way I look at the world by teaching me things I didn't know about my future of what I wanted to be. Now, my long-term goal is to go

to a Division 1 or Division 2 university. I would study electronic engineering or I would like to go to a college for basketball, eventually making it to the NBA or playing in a lower league or overseas," Steward said.

Though DAPCO helps its participants and a great deal of the surrounding areas, it still needs help and support from the community. Sponsors help fund events and parts of programs, and donations are always welcome and greatly appreciated. Some events run by DAPCO also help fund the program, including the Recycling Campaign that began on May 2, 2011. DAPCO collects and recycles old ink cartridges and cell phones in order to help the environment and raise needed money for the program.

Something to keep a look out for that benefits DAPCO and the community is the **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Fun Day & Health Walk Fair** this month on Sunday, September 13. The event will be held in the parking lot next to the DAPCO building, 127 N. Washington, Ypsilanti, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. See [www.dapco.org](http://www.dapco.org) for more information about this and other upcoming events.

## Detroit: my home, my hope

**Frances Spackey**  
**Groundcover Contributor**

Like touring a bombed-out war zone, revisiting my old neighborhood often brings me grief. I grieve for the city that provided me a good education from kindergarten to Wayne State University. I taught in Detroit schools when the teachers were respected and the curriculum was a model for educators. The city thrived as a center for music (think Motown). Performers came from New York and Los Angeles to share the stage with local talent.

I remember dressing up on Saturday night to window-shop Woodward Avenue and take in a movie. The movie houses were beautifully furnished. We rode public transportation from east side to west side in comfort and safety. Now, I see my once-local library closed and vandalized. Boarded-up vacant homes litter the neighborhoods where I once played in safe streets. Trash is strewn about where I recall proudly

maintained pristine lawns and freshly painted houses. I continue my journey to the "cultural center" – Wayne State University campus, the Detroit Institute of Arts Museum, Orchestra Hall, Charles Wright Museum, and the Science Center, surrounded by brand-new condominiums. Hope returns.

The people of Detroit are proud and resilient, even if the visual landscape today sometimes says otherwise. Neighborhood gardens stand where there were once weed-filled dumping grounds. The residents in Indian Village patrol their neighborhood mowing lawns of empty houses, even putting up curtains in the windows so there appear to be residents. There is a group known as the Mowers Gang. This group of self-proclaimed renegade landscapers descends on a different overgrown public park every other week to remove debris

see DETROIT, page 12



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## Slippery slope: sending troops to Iraq

continued from page 7

So what? The President doesn't need anyone's approval to do this. There will be a speech in the Rose Garden and some carefully-worded "blah blah" to explain why this step is necessary. And ultimately, perhaps thousands more of our finest young men and women will die. Those little yellow "bring our boys back" stickers will appear in the back windows of our cars again. Remember them? How can we know this will happen?

History tells us it will. Remember, or know about, a little fracas called Vietnam? Well, it started the same way – small. Presidents going back to Truman and Eisenhower had sent a little support to the then Indo-China and later South Vietnamese government. The situation started inching its way up following the election of President Kennedy in 1960.

In May, 1961, President Kennedy sent 400 American Green Berets and 100 other "Special Advisors" to train South Vietnamese soldiers in methods of counter-insurgency fighting. Sounds a lot like President Obama what is now doing.

The experts warned that if South Viet-

nam fell it would set in motion a "domino effect" and the whole of Southeast Asia would be lost to Communism.

According to *The History Place*, Defense Secretary Robert McNamara and the JCOS recommended sending 200,000 men to South Vietnam. President Kennedy vetoed the idea. The number of military advisors sent by Kennedy nonetheless reached over 16,000.

In November, 1963 President Kennedy was assassinated. The giant question was, "What were his plans for South Vietnam?" According to *JFK and Vietnam*, by John E. Newman, he would have withdrawn the advisors by the end of 1965, but no one knows for sure.

President Johnson thought Kennedy wished to escalate our involvement, and he claimed he was carrying out the dead President's wishes.

Having no constraints, and with his advisors clamoring for more, he plunged us deeply into the war with more and more troops and fire power – to no avail. The troop count reached over 500,000 by April, 1969.

We had propped up a series of South Vietnamese leaders. In a *www.clemson.edu* blog on the Vietnam Wars, Edwin E. Moise said, "... that the Diem gov-

ernment was hopeless. It was corrupt, incompetent, and dictatorial; hardly anyone in South Vietnam, even its own officers, liked or respected it very much."

In this mess, it was up to President Nixon to end the war, and he did with a ceasefire and ungraceful American withdrawal in January, 1973.

Ultimately, the North Vietnamese took over the whole country in April, 1975.

Despite the fears of the talking heads, Communism never spread any farther in the Southeast.

The war took over 59,000 American lives.

This quote by William Faulkner seems apt: "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

History tells us that, by sending advisors back into Iraq, we stand the chance of committing an enormous blunder. Talk about spending good money and bad: we have already spent \$2.2 trillion, according to a Reuters article from March 3, 2014, and will ultimately spend \$6 trillion over the next four decades including interest, to support the war in Iraq.

Think of another war that this money could be used for: the war on poverty. Then there is the rebuilding of our country's infrastructure, the educational opportunities for our youth, and the improvements in health care that could have been achieved – and were lost. Not to mention all the lives that were needlessly damaged or ended.

With neither a compelling reason nor good odds of success, propping up another corrupt leader has all the hallmarks of a sucking bog.

What can President Obama do to extricate us from this looming disaster before we are in too deep? That is the point where the war proponents start to say, "We can't leave now and have all those poor boys having died for nothing."

He should heed, at the earliest moment possible, before it's too late, the advice of Republican Senator George Aiken. At the height of the Vietnam fighting, Aiken suggested that President Johnson should "declare the United States the winner and begin de-escalation."

Still good advice for President Obama. Maybe he can learn from history.

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## Cryptoquote Solution

The time to relax  
is when you don't  
have time for it.

– Sydney J. Harris

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## Apple Crisp – “Tis the season for apples!”



by Lisa Sonnenburg

Groundcover Contributor

*Ingredients*

4 cups sliced tart apples (about 4 medium)

2/3 to 3/4 cup packed brown sugar

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

1/2 cup oats

1/3 stick margarine or butter, softened

3/4 teaspoon cinnamon

3/4 teaspoon nutmeg

*Directions*

Heat oven to 375°. Grease 8 x 8 x 2 inch square pan. Arrange apples in pan. Mix remaining ingredients. Sprinkle over apples. Bake for about 30 minutes until topping is golden brown and apples are tender. Serve warm with ice cream if desired.

## Detroit: my home, my hope

continued from page 10

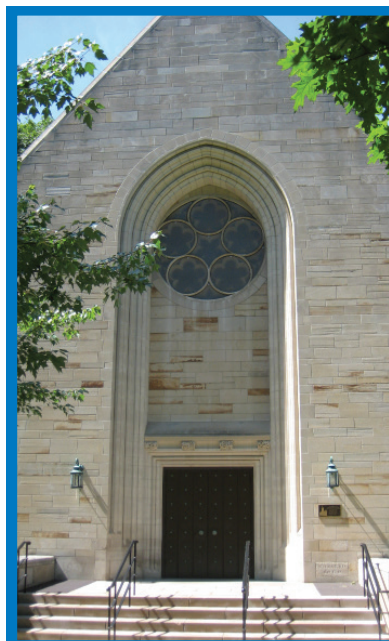
and mow the grass. They take pride in their volunteerism. And, of course, the outdoor art of the Heidelberg Project that brightens and opens an otherwise bleak area of Detroit.

Extremely important contributions come from Bill Pulte, one of the country's biggest 20<sup>th</sup>-century homebuilders. Pulte is devoted to removing the derelict structures that plague the city. Leslie Lynn Smith is president and CEO of TechTown Detroit, a group whose mission is teaching business acumen to potential entrepreneurs. Many businesses have been launched as a result of TechTown's efforts. There is Phil Cooley, the owner and partner of Slows Bar-B-Q, who purchased a 30,000-square-foot warehouse and rents it dirt-cheap to

artists, non-profits and upstart businesses. Dan Gilbert, chairman and founder of Quicken Loans, has purchased more than 20 buildings in the city's central business district. More than 70 organizations moved into the buildings in the first three years.

Detroit so often gets a bad rap from people who never visit and only hear the rumors. The ethnic festivals in the summer, the international jazz festival, the RiverWalk, and the free concerts in Harmonie Park – to name a few – are the scenes of families, seniors and teens enjoying a pleasant day together in Detroit, the comeback city.

Give my city a chance.



**Worship. Meet New Friends.  
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**Sunday Worship**

8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m. & 7:07 p.m.

**Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter • Cy Klone © 2014**

**Panel 1:** You have learned your lesson well, Little Grasshopper. I am proud of your progress.  
You have taught me so much, Sensei. Of which lesson do you speak?

**Panel 2:** You've not left home since birth, yet you have killed many small animals. By training your instincts and abilities you need not conquer the outdoors. It comes to you to be conquered.  
You have honed my senses and reflexes into a vermin-killing machine, Master.

**Panel 3:** And you show wisdom and patience waiting for the chipmunks to climb onto the balcony rather than jumping after them.  
Chipmunks come up, but they don't go down!

**Panel 4:** The tail you left on the living room floor was impolite, however.  
Are you upset I did not also leave you an offering? I am deeply sorry. We owe our human much and I forgot I owe you as well. I have more lessons to learn!

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